FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 JULY 1983

Israel-West Bank

Masked gunmen burst into Hebron Islamic College, killing 3 Arab students and wounding 33 others, Jerusalem radio reported. The Commander of the IDF Central Command subsequently promised that everything will be done to find the murderers whether they are Jews or Arabs, according to IDF Radio. In remarks broadcast by the radio, he announced that the IDF had closed off the entire Hebron region and placed it under temporary curfew in order to calm the situation. However, disturbances later erupted in Nabulus where an Arab girl was killed when IDF soldiers fired at stone-throwing demonstrators, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, after learning details of the Hebron incident from the IDF chief of staff, Prime Minister Menahem Begin condemned the "horrendous" act, according to an official announcement carried by ITIM.

In a statement transmitted by KUNA, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat blamed "Zionist gangs" for perpetrating the killing "according to a prior plan by the terrorist Begin." The PLO called for an emergency UN Security Council session to discuss the "massacre" at Hebron, Radio Monte Carlo noted.

PLO Affairs

Fatah Clashes — Fatah dissidents and loyalists continued fighting in the Shtawrah area of the Al-Biqa' valley early on 27 July. The dissidents called on loyalists in Ta'lbaya to surrender, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Earlier, the dissidents gained control of Jdita and surrounding hills, the radio said. According to Beirut radio, 14 people were killed in the latest round of fighting. Meanwhile, in an interview with the Amman paper *Sawt Ash-Sha'b, PLO deputy military commander Khalil Al-*Wazir blamed the Fatah dissidents and Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-General Command for attacking Fatah loyalists but did not refer to any Syrian role in the clashes. A Palestinian source cited by the paper opined that international and Arab pressure may have contributed to "freezing" Syrian military support for the dissidents.

'Arafat-Fahd talks — PLO Chairman 'Arafat told Saudi Arabia's *Al-Madinah* that his talks with King Fahd were "constructive and useful" and praised the Saudi monarch's mediation efforts in the PLO-Syrian dispute and the PLO internal crisis, SPA reported.

Palestinian Contacts With Junblatt — Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt met in Damascus with Fatah dissident leaders Nimr Salih and Colonel Sa'id Musa and also with PFLP Secretary General George Habash, according to Damascus radio and SANA. In remarks reported by the radio, Salih expressed support for the Lebanese National Salvation Front and said his talks with Junblatt focused on the best means of promoting alliance between the Palestinians and Lebanese nationalists. Junblatt said after the meeting that he supports the reform movement in Fatah but rejects all forms of Palestinian fratricide, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Col Musa denied that loyalists and dissidents are waging "real battles" in Al-Biqa', describing the fighting as clashes triggered by "marginal elements" supporting 'Arafat. Meanwhile, the PFLP-DFLP joint command issued a statement expressing support for Junblatt's National Salvation Front and reiterating its call for a peaceful solution of the Fatah crisis through "democratic dialogue," KUNA reported.

Lebanon

Israeli and Syrian forces twice exchanged artillery fire 26-27 July in the Al-Biqa' area, according to reports by Voice of Lebanon radio. Although an IDF officer cited by the radio announced that Sidon had been declared a military zone, an IDF spokesman later refuted this, describing the officer's statement as either a "misunderstanding" or "irresponsible," the radio reported. In Sidon, the radio added, IDF logistical and engineering teams have begun to build new fortifications and a military airport.

In another development, Justice Minister Roger Shaykhani expressed surprise and "indignation" over Syrian statements equating Lebanese security with Syrian security, Beirut radio reported. The minister called the statements "flagrant interference" in Lebanese internal affairs, the radio added.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iraqi Navy destroyed two Iranian "naval targets" as they were attempting to enter Bandar-e Khomeyni, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio announced. Iraqi units launched a successful counterattack against Iranian forces which had established a foothold in "an important vantage point" in the northern sector, destroying a "complete regiment" of Iranian revolution guards, the communique claimed.

Iranian forces have "complete superiority" in the "liberated" regions, an Iranian military communique carried by Tehran radio asserted. More enemy and counterrevolutionary bases were "liberated," bringing the total of enemy posts captured by Iranian forces to more than 50, a radio report added.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn again visited the northern sector of the battlefronts, INA reported. He was accompanied by Defense Minister General 'Adnan Khayrallah.

Iranian officials reiterated their warnings that Iran will no longer guarantee the security of the Gulf if Iraq takes action against Iranian oil installations. Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi asserted that any Iraqi measures that affect Gulf security will not only harm Iran but will also affect other Gulf countries, Tehran radio reported. He said this means that "we will not

permit any ship to frequent the Persian Gulf waters." If France supplies "very advanced aircraft" to Iraq, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in an interview broadcast by Tehran radio, Iran will no longer have any reason to keep the Gulf secure and could block ships from entering or leaving it.

Saudi Arabia

A Riyadh radio commentary denounced the Israeli partial withdrawal in Lebanon, calling it an attempt to "consecrate" Israel's occupation of Lebanon. The commentary asserted that Israel is trying to make the Al-'Awwali River a "permanent" position for its forces in Lebanon like the Berlin Wall.

An editorial carried by *Al-Madinah* rejected claims made by Iran about Saudi measures against Iranian pilgrims. If the Iranian Government wants "confusion, slogans, demonstrations, and marches" and wants to carry out "evil and rash acts," the editorial stated, the pilgrims can stay in Iran.

Afghanistan

Soviet-assisted government troops launched a new offensive against the rebel stronghold of Paghman, bombarding the area 21-25 July, Kabul diplomatic cables stated according to AFP. Fighting also intensified near Ghazni where Western diplomatic sources claimed that Soviet troops executed 20-30 village elders in retaliation for the deaths of 4 Soviet soldiers.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Keshtmand Addresses Meeting in Nimruz Province
LD261917 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Speech by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of DRA Council of Ministers, at a meeting of workers in Zarantj, Nimruz Province, on 26 July — recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrades, friends, compatriots, elders, sisters, and dear brothers: [Words indistinct] the Revolutionary Council and the DRA Council of Ministers and personally from Comrade Babrak Karmal, [applause] secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, to express good wishes and warm greetings for your prosperity and success.

Brothers and dear compatriots, the policy of the PDPA and of the DRA Government regarding the national question is a clear, frank, principled, and practical policy. To maintain equality among all nationalities, tribes, and ethnic groups of the DRA is one of the major aims of the April Revolution, particularly its new development stage. The solution of this question has been clearly and frankly reflected in the party action program, in all documents and resolutions of the party and government including the resolutions of the 12th PDPA Central Committee Plenum convened a few days ago. The DRA supports the right of national sovereignty by all nationalities, tribes, and ethnic groups who form the majority in their regions. Our Baluch brothers have the right — it is their legitimate right — to maintain their sovereign right in Nimruz Province, where they constitute the majority. The DRA Government will take every measure to develop the language and national culture of the people of Baluch. We will try not only to respect the legitimate right of the Baluch nation, but also to respect all their traditions, customs, and laudable sayings.

Comrades, friends, dear compatriots, sisters and brothers, the policy of the PDPA and the DRA Government, as it is national and democratic in internal affairs, is a peace-loving policy in foreign affairs too. We are ready to have normal relations and to maintain friendly relations with our neighbors. [applause]

We stand here at the moment at a few kilometers from the border of Iran on the edges of the southern borders of our country. And from here, we loudly declare that we desire friendship and that we desire good-neighborly relations. We want our southern and western borders to be transformed into borders of peace and friendship. As with our long border the the great Soviet Union, which are borders of peace, friendship, fraternity, and common understanding, and our relations are founded on the basis of friendship, fraternity, and the right of each other's sovereignty, we want our southern and western borders also to be borders of peace. However, the fact is that, despite all our efforts to maintain good-neighborly relations with the states of Pakistan and Iran based on the principle of noninterference in each other's affairs and of mutual respect, they have not displayed such readiness. These states arbitrarily interfere in our internal affairs and have adopted a hostile stance toward the DRA.

Nevertheless, we were ready, we are ready to solve by negotiation and peaceful means the question that has been created around Afghanistan. As you, brothers, are aware at this moment an undeclared imperialist and reactionary war has been imposed on us and bands of criminals, plunderers, thieves, terrorists, and murderersinfiltrate across the country's borders and disrupt the peaceful life of our people. However, we are determined to fight resolutely against highway robbers and mercenary bands. This is our right, this is our determination, and this is our sacred revolutionary duty. [applause] We know very well that right is on our side and victory is ours because reaction, reactionary resistance, and reactionary hostility have no future. [applause]

Nimruz Province is situated on the country's southern and western borders. Brothers, we respect very much your courage and your stand in defending the country's sacred borders. We have these resources at our disposal to protect the country's boundaries. The country's heroic Armed Forces are ready for this. Our Border Brigade No 4 performs an heroic role in this regard. The provincial headquarters does its duty in maintaining security. Your part in protecting the country's borders is worthy of appreciation. We hope your participation in this regard will increase and will be more vigilant. We are determined to build a prosperous society of the future and we are determined to transform Nimruz Province also into a developed region. Of course, we rely on the work and struggle of you courageous, brave, and toiling people of Nimruz Province.

We are not alone in our just struggle. All the progressive world defends and supports our revolutionary aspirations; primarily our friend, ally, and brother, the Soviet Union is supporting us. [applause]

Friends, dear brothers, I want to end my speech here and I wish you all most sincerely glorious successes in your revolutionary work and struggle. [applause]

Rebels Set Off Bomb in Kabul Restaurant 25 July
LD251647 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jul 83

[Text] Rebels, those criminal servants of the United States, once again showed their dirty, criminal, inhuman, and treacherous faces to the people by commiting a new crime. Defeated counterrevolutionary elements, who have exhausted their resources and who are losing their last bit of strength, are using shameless terrorist means, which in itself is a sign of their weakness, defeat, and bankruptcy.

In continuation of thousands of other crimes, counterrevolutionary elements at 1300 today detonated a bomb in Golden Street restaurant in Zarghuna Maydan [center of Kabul]. As a result of this criminal action, two restaurant workers and four customers were wounded and taken to the hospital from where they were discharged following treatment.

Seeing this criminal action, the people expressed their hatred and resentment toward terrorist criminals.

Security authorities are pursuing their investigation of the incident.

AFP Account

BK261526 Hong Kong AFP in English 1513 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Islamabad, July 26 (AFP) — Five people were killed and 25 injured in an Afghan rebel bomb attack yesterday on a Kabul restaurant popular with Afghan Communist Party members and secret police, Western diplomatic sources said here tody. The incident followed a week of intensified fighting, when the rebels have increasingly made their presence felt inside the city and Soviet-Afghan troops have stepped up preventive raids on Mujahedeen strongholds threatening the capital. Radio Kabul said that six people were wounded in the restaurant attack.

The government has launched a new offensive, backed by a large number of Soviet troops, round the rebel stronghold of Paghman, about 15 kms (9 miles) west of Kabul. Heavy air and artillery bombardments were carried out in the area between Thursday and yesterday by Soviet-assisted government troops, diplomatic cables from Kabul reporter.

Two extra convoys were sent to support the Afghan 8th Division, based in the western outskirts of Kabul, which had been raided several times by rebel forces from Paghman, the former summer palace of Afghan rulers. Soviet forces have also started night-shelling villages held by the rebels on the Shomali Plateau north of Kabul.

Soviet paratroopers were also dispatched in an attempt to surround the rebel groups, who are better organised and better armed than in the winter, apparently owing to supplies of heavy arms and ammunition from Pakistan.

Inside Kabul, increased rebel activity has led to extra patrols, roadblocks and other checks. Fighting has also intensified in the area round Ghazni some 100 kms (65 miles) south of Kabul, where Soviet-Afghan forces increased their attacks at the beginning of the month.

But the rebels have hit back. More than 60 Afghan soldiers were killed during a rebel attack on a convoy on the main road 30 kms (20 miles) north of Ghazni ten days ago, when the rebels took advantage of lack of air support and kept up the attack for 48 hours, destroying about 30 military vehicles. A further 50 were killed and many Afghan soldiers deserted in a rebel attack a week ago on an Afghan post not far away at Maidan Shahr, the diplomatic sources said.

These attacks coincided with a delivery of arms from Pakistan, according to sources close to the rebels in Peshawar.

Between 20 and 30 elderly men were shot down in the street in Ghazni with machineguns by a Soviet platoon in revenge for the death in the fighting of four Soviet soldiers, the diplomatic sources said, quoting reliable sources. The Afghan Government has denied this report.

SPA Reports on Fighting During Last 2 Weeks of July

LD241443 Riyadh SPA in English 1225 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] Islamabad, july 24, SPA — Widespread aerial bombing followed by sweep operations by Soviet-Afghan Government forces causing death and destruction during last two weeks of July was here today reported by Peshwar based news agency, AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP).

Soviet bombing of Chakari, Khvord Kabul, Khabroti, Yakhdara and other villages in Kabul Province on July 13 resulted in destruction of at least ninety (90) Afghan houses, AIP report said.

A Soviet MiG bomber was shot down by mujahideen ground fire same day during attack on Chakari village, AIP said and added villages surrounding Kabul were made targets in view of increasing resistance pressure on Afghan capital in recent months. On July 14, 15 and 16 different mujahideen controlled areas in Ningarhar Province, east of Kabul, were extensively bombed by Soviets, AIP said.

During these raids, thirteen afghans, mostly women and children, were seriously injured in Mama Kheyl village in Khogiani county of Ningarhar Province, bordering Pakistan.

Earlier on July 6, Soviet attacked mujahideen positions in Lowgar Valley south of Kabul. Mujahideen resisted and during fighting thirty-two (32) Soviet-Afghan Government troops were killed. Twelve (12) mujahideen, including their famous commander Rais Abdul Ahad, were also killed.

AIP said death of Abdul Ahad was widely condoled throughout Afghanistan.

During house-to-hosue search in Lowgar Valley communist soldiers on July 5 bayoneted to death four young sons of an Afghan named Gul Deen. Boys' ages ranged between 9-15, AIP report said.

Further Report

LD262003 Riyadh SPA in English 1907 26 Jul 83

[Text] Islamabad, July 26 SPA — Between twenty to thirty, and not just twenty, white-beareded Afghani elders were massacred in Ghazni 90 miles south-west of Kabul by Soviet occupation troops and communist agents of Kabul regime in apparent retalation for four Soviets, including one officer, killed by mujahideen near Ghazni. Majority of Afghan elders, diplomatic [as received] said, were machine-gunned by Soviets in public view under the shadows of the 800 year old historic Ghazni minaret built by Sultan Masud [word indistinct].

Afghans know how to die, diplomatic [as received] said referring to the death of those freedom-fighters who were massacred in cold blood.

Having lately suffered some of the casualities in Ghazni area, Soviets were using incendiary bombs to kill Afghan civilians

indiscriminately. The bombs were dropped on villagers, two kms north-east of Ghazni on July 9 Western diplomats said and added about fifty Afghans were killed in the raids throughout the week from July 18-25 heavy helicopters traffic to and from Ghazni was reported. [sentence and puncuation as received] On July 14, during a mujahideen attack on Soviet convoy near Ghazni, more than 60 Soviet-Afghan soldiers were killed.

Karmal, Keshtmand Congratulate Castro on Anniversary
LD260646 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Kabul, July 25, BAKHTAR — President Babrak Karmal and Premier Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand of DRA have sent a congratulatory telegram addressed to Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, chairman of the State Council and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba on the occasion of the celebrations of 30th anniversary of the assault on Moncada Barracks.

The telegram says that friendly and fraternal relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between the parties, peoples and the governments of the two countries will ever futher develop in the interests of the people's of the DRA and Cuba and peace and security all over the world.

Briefs

Soviet Agricultural Protocol — Kabul, July 25, BAKHTAR -- Soviet Union will give free of charge 5000 tons of improved seeds worth over 1.3 million rubles for the autumn sowing campaign to DRA. A protocol to this effect was signed here today between the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms of DRA and Vostokintorg firm of Soviet Union. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0434 GMT 25 Jul 83 LD]

Kabul Construction Explosions — Announcement by the Kabul Garrison Command: The Bridge Construction Unit Command of the Ministry of Public Works' road and airfield construction will set off explosives on 27 and 28 July in the morning and afternoon in the vicinity of Khair Khana Gorge in order to obtain quarry stone needed for construction. The Afshar drinking water project of the Afghan Construction Unit will also set off explosives tomorrow from 1500 to 1700 behind the Polytechnic Institute in order to extend its project pipelines. Esteemed Kabul citizens are hereby informed. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jul 83 LD]

AFP Cites Indian Paper on 'Early July' Coup Attempt

BK270833 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 27 Jul 83

[Text] New Delhi, July 27 (AFP) — Bangladesh's chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, survived an attempted coup d'etat by a section of army officers in early July, the *Hindustan Times* reported today. Quoting highly-placed diplomatic sources, the daily said, in a dispatch from Calcutta, that following the attempt Gen. Ershad ordered a drastic purge of suspected army officers and also reshuffled his cabinet. Gen. Ershad came to power in a bloodless coup in March 1982.

The cabinet reshuffle was briefly mentioned in an official announcement from Dhaka on July 19, the paper said. The attempt was the 37th in Bangladesh since the assassination of the country's first president, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975. The daily said it was not known if there were any executions following the coup attempt.

A number of army officers, ranging from colonels to major generals, had been stripped of their ranks, while three major generals had been shifted to less important posts, the paper said. The shifting of Major General Mohabbat Jan Choudhury from the post of interior minister to the less innocuous Establishment and Reorganisation Ministry, a newly created portfolio, was sparked by the attempt, the paper added.

Ershad Departs 26 July for Maldives, Sri Lanka

BK261000 Dhaka BSS in English 0940 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Dhaka, July 26 (BSS) — President of the Bangladesh Council of Ministers, Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad, left here this morning on a five-day official and goodwill visit to the two Indian Ocean neighbours — Maldives and Sri Lanka.

On the first leg of this tour, Gen. Ershad goes to the Maldivian capital of Male where he will discuss possibilities of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the field of trade and commerce, with President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

He is also expected to discuss with the Maldivian leader different regional and international issues including the proposed South Asian regional cooperation forum mooted by Bangladesh a few years back.

The Bangladesh leader will have similar discussions later on a two-day visit to Sri Lanka at the invitation of President J.R. Jayewardene.

Both Sri Lanka and Maldives are among the seven South Asian countries who have been working together to forge a regional cooperation forum proposed by Bangladesh two years ago.

President Chowdhury Undergoes Gallbladder Surgery

BK260207 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] President Assanuddin Chowdhury had a successful gallbladder operation at the combined military hospital in Dhaka yesterday. His postoperative condition is satisfactory.

Continuing Reportage on Violence in Sri Lanka

High Commissioner Offers Assurances

BK251606 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 83

[Text] The Sri Lanka high commissioner in India, Mr Bernard Tilakaratna, has said his government will take every precaution to ensure that no Indian national is adversely affected by the incidents in his country. In a statement in New Delhi, he said all possible steps are being taken by his government to bring the situation under control.

Families Evacuated to Hotels

BK261414 Hong Kong AFP in English 1404 GMT 26 Jul 83

[By Govindan Unny]

[Text] New Delhi, July 26 (AFP) — At least five Indian diplomats and their families in riot-torn Colombo were evacuated to hotels today as ethnic violence continued for the second day in the Sri Lankan capital, an Indian Foreign Office spokesman disclosed. A PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) dispatch from Colombo meanwhile said that the Sri Lankan Government had extended the curfew regulations to cover the entire country. (The curfew was imposed at 2 pm yesterday in Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara and Jaffna to control the unrest. It was due to be lifted at 5 am tomorrow, but President Junius Jayewardene decided that it would be reimposed at 6 pm, official sources in Colombo said).

One of the Indian High Commission staff was wounded and the house of Deputy High Commissioner Rajender Abhyankar was gutted, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The spokesman, who said his information was based on sketchy reports received by the government, did not identify the injured diplomat nor his condition. He said he could not confirm press reports from Colombo that the State Bank of India building, where the high commission is based, was set ablaze this morning. Reports said the fire in the four-storey building had been brought under control and the high commission had escaped serious damage.

The spokesman said the Indian Government was trying to contact the high commission. He also confirmed that the Sri Lankan Government had taken special security measures to protect the Indian High Commission offices and the residence of High Commissioner J.S. Chatwal. Mr. Chatwal, who has been in New Delhi for the last two days for consultations, left for Colombo early today.

The spokesman said security guards had also been posted at the houses of other Indian staff members. A total of 54 Indians work at the Colombo High Commission and the assistant high commission in Kandy.

The spokesman confirmed that the Indian Government had taken up the situation with the Sri Lankan authorities both in Colombo and New Delhi. "The government has conveyed our expectation that they will take all required security measures to safeguard the persons and property of the high commission," he added.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran of Tamil Nadu in South India, original home of the Sri Lanka Tamils, appealed to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to consider raising the situation in Sri Lanka in the United Nations, PTI reported.

"The news coming from Sri Lanka about arson, rioting and ruthless killings of Tamils is highly disturbing," he said in a message to Mrs. Gandhi.

The opposition Dravida Munneta Kazhagam (DMK) party in Tamil Nadu called for a half-day general strike tomorrow afternoon to focus attention on "atrocities against Tamils" in Sri Lanka, PTI said. DMK President M. Karunanidhi also said a parade would be held in the city tomorrow evening to demonstrate the sympathy of the people of Tamil Nadu for the Tamils of Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile in Madras, India, a leading Indian Tamil politician said todays that he had information that about 40 Tamils had been killed in Sri Lanka's northern city of Jaffna in riots over the past few days. Mr. Nedumaram spoke of increasing violence against Tamils in Sri Lanka in the current disturbances and called for "firm steps" by India to protect their lives.

Situation Returning to Normal

BK261610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1542 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Reports from Sri Lanka say that there has been considerable abatement of violence and the situation appears to be returning to normal. A government spokesman said in Colombo that there has been much improvement in the situation.

At the same time a news agency report reaching New Delhi from Colombo says that there was a fire in a building — housing part of the Indian High Commission office — but it was brought under control and there was no serious damage. Some members of the staff of the Indian mission and their families have been shifted to hotels for security following yesterday's incidents.

The Indian high commissioner, Mr Chatwal, who was in Delhi in connection with the coming South Asian foreign ministers conference, has rushed back to Colombo.

All public and private institutions remained closed today. Curfew has been extended till tomorrow morning.

India has conveyed to Sri Lanka both in New Delhi and Colombo that it expects the authorities there to take all the necessary measures to safeguard the life and property of the Indian High Commission staff. Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka high commissioner in New Delhi, Mr Tilakaratna, denied in a statement today that the Indian deputy high commissioner's house in Colombo has been damaged. Residences of some non-diplomatic staff situated in the predominently Tamil residential areas, however, suffered damage.

Minister Briefs Parliament on Punjab Situation

BK270421 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jul 83

[Text] The home minister has accused the Akali leader Sant Hafchand Singh Longowal of shifting his stand on various demands and raising many more issues. Intervening in the 9-hour debate on the adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha last night, Mr P.C. Sethi regretted that the Akali leader is now talking of Sikhs as a separate nation. Amidst cheers, he said India is multilingual, multiracial and multicultural. We will make all sacrifices to keep it as one nation.

Mr Sethi referred to the dispute over river waters and said the Akalis now want the issue to be decided on the basis of riparian rights, which he described as an outdated doctrine. It cannot apply to different states in a country. He reiterated the government's offer to refer the issue to a tribunal to be presided over by a serving or a retired Supreme Court judge. Mr Sethi called upon the opposition to condemn the activities of the extremists and help maintain harmony between Hindus and Sikhs at all cost. He said the Akalis never categorically denounced the violent activities of extremists. Government has recently initiated action to check their activities. Measures have been taken to gear up the law and order machinery and the intelligence set up has been reorganized. About 1,100 people have been arrested and cases already registered against about 500 of them.

The home minister categorically refuted the opposition allegation that the ruling party is dragging its feet in solving the Punjab issue for possible electoral gain. He said on the contrary it is the opposition which does not want a solution to the problem but is merely anxious to censure the government. He recalled the various initiatives taken by the government for talks with the Akalis and said a number of their demands have already been accepted. He said the opposition was also involved in these talks in the hope that they would be helpful, but of late the attitude of some of the opposition leaders has changed completely and one does not know where they stand. As far as the government is concerned, it offered several positive formulae and is prepared to settle outstanding issues.

After Mr Sethi's speech, the house rejected the adjournment motion by a voice vote.

In a statement, the Akali Dal president has said Mr Sethi's offer of referring the river water dispute to a tribual does not clarify the terms which would be referred to it. Sant Harchand Singh Longowal said that the Akali Dal has time and again clarified that the party has nothing to do with the violent activities. He said that his party's demand for the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab cannot be linked with territorial dispute.

West Bengal Officials Cite Election Violence

BK270409 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jul 83

[Text] The president of the West Bengal State Congress-I Committee, Mr Ananda Gopal Mukherjee, has alleged that violence has increased in West Bengal since the Panchayat [local bodies] elections. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, he alleged that a Congress-I worker was blinded by a CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] worker in (Uppakulia) village of Nadia District earlier this month.

The acting West Bengal chief minister, (Binay Krishna Chaudhry), says over 30 people were killed and more than 920 injured in clashes during the Panchayat elections. He told newsmen in Calcutta that the state government will send a detailed report on the matter to the prime minister. He disclosed that those killed include 14 workers each of the CPI-M and the Congress-I.

Youth Congress-I To Form 'Anti-Extremist Squad'

BK261626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] The Punjab Youth Congress-I has decided to enroll 150,000 volunteers to form an anti-extremist squad to check extremism and help maintain peace and harmony in the state. This was stated in Chandigarh today by the president of the state unit of the youth Congress-I, Mr (Partap Singh Bajwa).

Minister on Safety Measures for Tarapur Plant

BK260043 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 83

[Text] The minister of state for science and technology, Mr Shivraj Patil, assured the Rajya Sabha today that safety measures are being taken according to international standard to protect workers from radiation leakage in the Tarapur atomic power plant. He was replying to a calling attention motion on the reported radiation leak at the Tarapur plant. The motion was moved by Dr Bhai Mahavir, Bharatiya Janata Party, and some others. The minister said the conditions of the plant are safe and it would not be hazardous to flora and fauna. Mr Patil appealed to the members not to create any panic about it because such a step will erode the confidence of the Indian scientists and technicians.

Initiating the debate on the motion, Dr Bhai Mahavir wanted the government to circulate a white paper on all atomic power stations and hold an independent inquiry into the Tarapur unit.

PRC Foreign Minister Continues State Visit

Official Talks Held

BK261340 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] The first round of talks between the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and the Chinese foreign minister, Mr Wu Xueqian, was held in Islamabad today. The two foreign ministers were assisted in the talks by their principal aides. The talks lasted 2 hours and will be resumed tomorrow.

The Chinese foreign minister, accompanied by members of his delegation, and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan watched the proceedings of the Majlis-i-Shoora for some time today. As he entered the house, he was given a rousing welcome by the members who greeted him by thumping of desks and prolonged cheers. Later, the Chinese foreign minister had a meeting with the chairman of the Majlis-i-Shoora, Khwaja Mohammad Safdar, in his chamber.

Meeting With Zia

BK261722 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] The Chinese foreign minister called on the president, Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi this evening. They discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international matters

Interior Minister on Discovery of SAM Missiles

BK270838 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 27 Jul 83

[Text] The interior minister told the Federal Advisory Council in Islamabad this morning that the government is trying to foil terrorist activity completely and to stop the smuggling of arms and explosives into the country. Mahmud A. Haroon was speaking on an adjournment motion moved by (Noorul Hassan), (Mian Naimur Rahman), (Mian Mohammad Shafi), (Chowdhury Mohammad Idris Taj), (Hafiz Mohammad Taqi), and (Sayeed Khalilur Rahman Chishti). In the adjournment motion they expressed serious concern over the discovery of two SAM-7 ground-to-air missiles in an advocate's [Aftab Gul] house in Lahore and demanded that the culprits be given exemplary punishment.

The interior minister said the discovery of missiles has proved that antistate elements are engaged in activities to harm the country. Their headquarters is a foreign country, and due to limited resources the government cannot seal the border with this country. However, no effort is being spared to stop the smuggling of arms and explosives, which is proved in the discovery of missiles. He said special squads have been stationed in all provinces to deal with terrorist elements, and similar squads will also be stationed at divisional and district levels.

The interior minister said that information regarding the discovered missiles was given by detained members of the Al-Zulfiqar and that Aftab Gul has fled the country out of fear of being apprehended. He said the investigation has revealed that his father and other members of his family were collaborating with him, and that is why two colleagues of Aftab Gul and his father have been taken into custody.

After the interior minister's statement, the adjournment motion was withdrawn.

Debate Resumes on Committee Report on Government

BK261536 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Four adjournment motions were moved in Majlis-i-Shoora this morning expressing grave concern over the recovery of two SAM-7 surface-to-air missiles from the residence of an advocate in Lahore. The movers of the motions said the smuggling of such lethal weapons into the country must be condemned and the culprits awarded exemplary punishment. The chairman said that all the four adjournment motions will be discussed by the house tomorrow. The movers of the motions are (Mian Naimur Rahman), Mr (Noorul Hassan), (Mian Mohammad Shafi), and (Chowdhury Mohammad Idris Taj).

At the resumed debate on the report of the special committee in the Majlis-i-Shoora today, the members said that the country's political system must be based strictly on Islamic laws. They said that Islam provides a complete code of life and fully guarantees the rights of everyone, particularly those of the downtrodden.

Some of the members pointed out that the previous government did not run the country in accordance with the dictates of Islam, which was the very basis of its creation. They also emphasized that, as enjoined by Islam, the people at the helm of affairs must be men of integrity and unquestionable honesty to be capable to run the affairs of the country in the light of Islamic precepts.

Some of the members said that it is a great credit to the present government that it has not abrogated the 1973 Constitution. They suggested that necessary changes should be made in the Constitution to strike a balance between the powers of the president and the prime minister.

Two lady members, who took part in today's debate, demanded greater representation for women in parliament so that they could play their role not only in defending the rights of the women but also in the reformation of the society.

The house will meet again at 0830 tomorrow morning.

Government Commission Issues Statement on Requests

BK261504 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] The chairman of the commission on the form of government has been receiving requests from various quarters that they may be given opportunity by the commission to express their views before it. A press note issued in Islamabad says the commission may have liked to do so, particularly on account of

the eminence and scholarship of some of these personalities, but regrets its inability due to paucity of time. The press note says the commission would, however, be glad to consider any views received by it in writing.

MRD Reportedly To Boycott Local Elections

BK251439 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Jul 83

[Text] The eight-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy in Pakistan has decided to boycott the local body elections to be held in September. This decision was taken by the central committee of the movement in Karachi. In a resolution, it said that the proposed elections are devised to mislead the people in an effort to perpetuate the military rule in the country. The governor [as heard] of the eight-party movement, Haji (Ghulam Ahmad Billour), said that Pakistan People's Party has also agreed to review its earlier decision not to issue a boycott call.

36 College Students Expelled for Disturbances

BK270329 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Thirty-six students from Peshawar University, Sarhad University of Engineering and Technology, and Khyber Medical College have been expelled from the respective universities for 3 years and their entry into the university campus along with three former students has been banned. The vice chancellors of the two universities and the principal of the Khyber Medical College, Peshawar, issued two separate notifications under Martial Law Order No 363 in Peshawar today. According to these notifications, the action against these students has been taken on charges that they were involved in disturbances in the Islamia College, Peshawar, on 5 April and in the Khyber Medical College on 26 April this year, leading to a serious breach of discipline and order and vitiating the environment of the educational institutions.

It may be recalled that 1 student was killed and 15 others injured in armed clashes between 2 rival students factions at the Khyber Medical College and 1 student was injured in clashes at the Islamia College. These incidents caused serious concern among the parents of students, patriotic citizens, and other student (?well-wishers), and demands were made to eliminate such unhealthy activities and politics in educational institutions.

Pakistan Prepared To Build Iranian Railroad

GF261314 Karachi Dawn in English 24 Jul 83 p 1

[Interview with Federal Minister for Railways Abdul Ghafoor Khan by *Dawn Business and Economic Review* correspondent Shaheen Sehbai — date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Pakistan is prepared to help Iran build railway lines between Zahedan and Tehran to remove the present bottlenecks in smooth trade exchanges between the two countries.

"We will soon discuss this and the other problems, including the holding up of Pakistani wagons for long periods with the Iranian Government," federal minister for railways, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Khan of Hoti said in an interview with *Dawn Economic & Business Review*.

"This issue has to be resolved because Pakistan Railways [PR] cannot afford these delays of 70 to 90 days. If need be, I am prepared to go to Tehran and sort the matter out," the minister said.

He said another proposal under study was to unload the goods destined for Iran at Nokkundi, the last Pakistani post near the Pak-Iran border in especially made warehouses. "Then the Iranians can bring their trucks and take it whenever they want to, and in this way they will not be using our wagons as warehouses.

Following are some excerpts:

Q: What are the real problems faced by the Pakistan Railways in trading with Iran?

A: The track between Iran and Pakistan was a temporary one with just one train running on it in a week. The trade volume we want with Iran just cannot be handled on this track. Besides the Iranians neither have warehouses nor further track. So our wagons stand there until the Iranian trucks come and unload them. This takes up to 90 days. Presently, over 1,400 wagons are held up. Moreover about 500 wagons are reserved fully for goods meant for Afghan refugees. This is beyond our capabilities. The world should come to our help in this situation.

Q: How you are tackling the problem then?

A: We are going to be tough with the people dealing with Afghan transit goods. Already we have suspended two licences of agents dealing in transit goods. These people take our wagons and then do not unload until they can sell their products. They pay the demurrage but this blocks our wagons.

Q: Will not a trucking agreement with Iran help ease the trade?

A: We have no objection. In fact, I personally told General Saeed Qadir (federal production minister) not to use the NLC (National Logistics Cell) in competition with Pakistan Railways but to use it to take goods from Zahedan onwards. This way you will earn foreign exchange and also not compete with us.

Q: How about improving the track on our side?

A: The Government of Pakistan is considering the Saindak Copper Project very favourably. That project will require new tracks as lakhs of tons of ore and goods have to move. We have already prepared our estimates and will require Rs. 1,300 million to make an A-1 service. The government will have to do it.

Q: What will be the position of railway wagons during the Sixth Plan?

A: We will not make any wagons. In fact, we will dismantle the wooden ones and during the Sixth Plan period we will have lesser wagons then during the Fifth Plan period. But we can handle the

situation if the current bottlenecks are removed. If there are no delays and hold-ups, we can handle the goods.

Q: Is PR exporting its services?

A: Yes, we have just won a tender to overhaul 20 locomotives in Iran. This we did among international tenders. We are prepared to build Iranian tracks between Zahedan and Tehran. We are working in Saudi Arabia on projects worth millions of dollars.

Yaqub Khan To Visit Bangladesh 10 August
BK241535 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, is to begin a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh from 10 August in response to an invitation by his Bangladesh counterpart, Mr Doha. The invitation was extended during Mr Doha's visit to Pakistan in February this year. The two foreign ministers are expected to discuss bilateral relations for promoting mutual cooperation and review regional and international issues.

SRI LANKA

Bangladesh's Ershad Urged To Postpone Visit

BK261332 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Colombo has advised the president of Bangladesh, General Ershad, [designation as heard] to postpone his planned visit to Sri Lanka later this month. The Bangladesh leader was due to arrive in Colombo on Thursday on a 2-day visit after his tour of Maldives starting today. He had been scheduled to hold discussions with President Jayewardene.

Leaders Meet 26 July, Review Current Situation

BK261709 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Excerpts] President Jayewardene today discussed the current situation at a meeting attended by Prime Minister R. Premadasa, several Cabinet ministers, district ministers, chairmen of the development councils in the Western Province, members of parliament of the Western Province, and senior government officials.

At another meeting, it was decided to set up an emergency services and supplies coordinating committee for the Colombo district. This conference was presided over by the prime minister. The functions of this committee are to rehabilitate displaced persons, maintain settlement camps, ensure food supplies to the public, and to maintain public services. The district minister for Colombo, Weerasinghe Mallimarachcchit, will take overall responsibility for these operations. The coordinating committee will be chaired by the government agent of Colombo. The committee will operate from the Colombo Kutchery operations center.

It was also decided to establish several centers to house displaced persons during the current period of unrest.

It was decided to issue all multipurpose cooperative societies a week's requirements of rice, sugar, and salt from the food commissioners' stock on credit. The cooperative wholesale establishment has also agreed to release dal [pulse], milkfood on the same basis. All multipurpose cooperative societies have been requested by the secretary to the minister of food and cooperative societies [words indistinct] adequate stocks into operation tomorrow.

The curfew is now in operation throughout the island. The curfew, which was in force in the Colombo, Gamphaha, Kalutara, and Jaffna districts since yesterday was extended to the rest of the country at 1630 today. It will be lifted at 0500 tomorrow and reinforced at 1800. The public have been advised to stay in their homes during curfew hours.

The police and the armed services are instructed to ensure the strict enforcement of the curfew. Several curfew violators have already been shot by the Armed Forces.

Prime Minister R. Premadasa today toured many parts of the Colombo city, especially areas mostly affected by violence. He was accompanied by the Navy commander, Asoka de Silva. Mr. Premadasa personally supervised the security arrangments in Colombo. He was seen discussing security arrangements with service [words indistinct]. The prime minister also had discussions with officials handling essential services, such as the fire brigade and food supplies to ensure an efficient service by the executives. The mayor of Colombo [words indistinct] the prime minister and briefed him of the emergency measures taken by the city administration to maintain essential services.

All public and private institutions, which were closed today, will reopen tomorrow. They will be advised to close at 1500 tomorrow to enable employees to return home before the commencement of the curfew. However, all schools will remain closed tomorrow.

Both rail and bus services will operate as far as possible under normal schedules from 0500 until 1800 tomorrow. The chairman of the Sri Lanka Transport Board, Viktor Rupesinghe, told Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation this evening that arrangements have been made to operate bus services once the curfew has been lifted.

Curfew Lifted, To Be Reimposed; Violators Shot

BK270148 Colombo International Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 27 Jul 83

[Text] The curfew imposed since 1630 yesterday was lifted at 0500 this morning. It will be reimposed at 1800 this evening. People have been advised to stay indoors during the curfew hours. The police and Armed Forces have been ordered to strictly enforce the curfew, and the Armed Forces have shot many people for violating the curfew.

AFP: Officials Say Situation 'Improved'

OW261754 Hong Kong AFP in English 1728 GMT 26 Jul 83

[AFP prefaces item with note: "This dispatch was subject to censorship."]

[Excerpts] Colombo, July 26 (AFP) — Security forces patrolled this tense, curfew-bound capital today after an orgy of killing and arson in which 37 Tamil prisoners were massacred in a Colombo jail, officials said.

(While reports from here were being censored by authorities, the Sri Lankan Government today confirmed the massacre of 37 Tamils in Colombo's Welikade jail yesterday and said the killings brought the death toll from three days of ethnic violence to 57, PRESS TRUST of INDIA (PTI) news agency reported in New Delhi.

(In an undated report, PTI said the Ministry of Information in Sri Lanka confirmed 20 deaths in Colombo and other areas, in addition to those killed in the prison.

(In a report today from Madras, capital of the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, the original home of the Sri Lankan Tamils, PTI said three top activists of the TAMIL liberation movement in Sri Lanka were among the 37 slaughtered in the jail.

(The three Liberation Tigers killed were Kuttimani, Thangadurai and Jagan, who were facing the death sentence in connection with the slaying of policemen, PTI said.

(The dispatch said that soldiers stood by and watched as fellow prisoners massacred the Tamils.)

Officials said the massacre at Welikade jail occurred when prisoners, defying official orders, broke into the Tamils' cells and killed 37 of them.

The Tamils had either been convicted of crimes under the anti-terrorism law or detained under its provisions, the officials said.

They gave no details of the [word indistinct] or of how many [words indistinct]. The Justice Ministry said an [words indistinct] being held.

The long-simmering ethnic violence which left about 3,000 Tamils homeless erupted following the killing on Saturday of 13 soldiers by Tamil separatists in an ambush in the northern Jaffna area, Sri Lanka's Tamil heartland.

Armed troops and police manned key points and patrolled the capital where smoke curled from gutted Tamil-owned shops along Galle Street, the main thoroughfare along the sea front.

Officials said three people died in the incidents in Colombo.

Mobsters had profited from the violence and confusion to go on a looting spree, ransacking abandoned homes and burning shops.

Sporadic incidents were reported today, but official sources said the situation had improved.

Meanwhile, about 3,000 Tamils who lost their homes and shops in yesterday's arson attacks huddled in schools and religious institutions, Social Service Ministry sources [words indistinct] service chiefs chaired by Jayewardene.

All public and private institutions remained closed today but were to reopen for about seven hours tomorrow. Schools would remain closed.

(In New Delhi, PTI reported travellers arriving from Sri Lanka as saying they had seen groups chasing one another through the Colombo streets.)

The violence by Tamil separatists has escalated in the past three weeks. On July 1 armed separatists seized the railway station in the northern town of Kondavil and set 10 carriages ablaze.

PTI Cited on Tamil-Sinhala Clashes in North

BK270625 Hong Kong AFP in English 0618 GMT 27 Jul 83

[Text] New Delhi, July 27 (AFP) — Military trucks have taken the bodies of more than 60 Tamils to hospitals at Jaffna following violent Tamil-Sinhala clashes in the northern Sri Lankan town, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA [PTI] news agency reported here today. Quoting reports reaching Madras, the agency said that an official of the Indian high commission in Colombo was fatally wounded and the high commission office was damaged by fire during riots which started at the weekend.

PTI said that more than 100 people, mostly Tamils, were killed in the violence which began after the killing of 13 government soldiers by Tamil separatists near Jaffna over the weekend. About 2,000 houses belonging to the Tamil minority were burned down in Colombo, the agency reported.

A government spokesman here said yesterday that about five Indian diplomats and their families had been evacuated to hotels in Colombo because of what he called anti-Indian violence.

AFP: Situation in Colombo Remains Extremely Tense

BK270630 Hong Kong AFP in English 0608 GMT 27 Jul 83

[Text] Colombo, July 27 (AFP) — The government lifted a nationwide curfew for 13 hours today but the capital remained extremely tense after more than a day of ethnic violence and arson which informed sources said left at least 60 people dead. Heavily armed troops today continued to patrol the capital where nearly 4,000 frightened Tamils have sought refuge in schools and religious institutions. The shops and homes of the Tamil minority here were the principal targets of arsonists and looters in the riots which started over the weekend following the killing on Saturday of 13 soldiers by Tamil separatists in an ambush in the northern Jaffna area. Censorship was in force and no official figures were released for deaths and injuries in other parts of the island. Well informed sources said that at least 60 people had died.

The capital, where gutted Tamil stores and homes smouldered, remained extremely tense today as heavily armed motorised and foot patrols moved through the streets and the suburbs.

Despite the curfew and a warning that they could face the death penalty, looters were again active late yesterday, eyewitnesses said. The curfew, first imposed on the capital and several other areas at 2 p.m. on Monday was extended later to the entire nation.

It was lifted at dawn today but was due to come into effect again at 6 p.m. (1230 GMT). Shops and offices, which opened today, were due to close early.

Official sources said that 35 of the dead were Tamils detained in Colombo's maximum security prison. They were massacred when several numbered other prisoners defied orders and broke

into the area where the Tamil were held, officially said. Three of the dead were serving lengthy prison sentences for murder and the others were Tamil militants held under the anti-terrorism law, well informed sources said.

A magistrate head evidence at the prison throughout the night and said that what he had been told indicated that "the deaths were all caused by homicide."

In a first report on the jail killings yesterday, officials had said that 37 Tamils had been slain.

No reports were available here on reaction to the jail massacre in the major Tamil centers of Trincomalee and Jaffna. These areas are main bases of the separatist movement among Tamil-speakers, a Hindu group making up about 18 percent of the 15 million population. The British brought Tamils from India during colonial times to work the ubiquitous tea plantations. There have been sporadic explosions of communal tension between the Tamils and the majority Sihnalas since late 1977 after Tamil-speakers in the south were attacked during a wave of violence and arson.

The cabinet chaired by President Junius Jayewardene was due to meet today to discuss the crisis. A second session of the national conference summoned by the government to map out a solution to the crisis was also scheduled for today. The four parliamentary opposition parties had boycotted the first session on July 20. Observers said that it was unlikely that this second session would be held.

Foreign Ministry Reacts to U.S. Stand on Persian Gulf

LD271137 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jul 83

[Text] In connection with a U.S. State Department spokesman's remarks that America is determined to adopt measures to ensure free shipping in the Persian Gulf, our country's foreign Ministry spokesman has stated that America's renewed threat confirms an earlier assertion by the Islamic Republic of Iran that the Baghdad regime intends to drag the superpowers into the region and that the consequences of its military threats would affect the whole region.

He added: The successful Wal Fajr-II operations on the Piranshahr-Ravanduz axis, in northern Iraq, was, despite the Iraqi regime's last-ditch efforts and lie-spreading aimed at concealing the truth, a resounding reply to the Israqi rocket attacks against civilian targets in Iran. As has always been stated, Islam's combatants will answer the recent threats not by killing innocent people, but on the battlefield.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman went on to state: International arrogance, particularly by America and France, as well as Saddam's military and financial partners in the imposed war, will reap nothing from the war except losses, as has been the case in the past. Should the threats continue, they should certainly expect even more losses.

He further said: The Persian Gulf's security and the freedom of shipping there are in the interest of all the countries in the region. As a country having the largest coastline in the region, the Islamic Republic regards itself as having a special responsibility in this regard. The Persian Gulf's security will be threatened only when the Islamic Republic of Iran's security is threatened.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: America's direct threat, under the guise of having responsibility for ensuring freedom of shipping in the Persian Gulf, made under the pretext of protecting America's vital interests, is a brazen insult to all the countries in the region and an aggression against the sovereignty and independence of nations. It ought to be condemned by all the countries in the region. America's vital interests now are no greater than they were before the dead shah's fall and the victory of the Islamic Revolution. America's probable intervention in the region will assuredly bring about yet another resounding defeat for the expansionist and discredited Carter-Mitterrand doctrine.

Musavi Denounces 'Propaganda' on Gulf Mines

GF261955 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi today described the recent propaganda campaigns by the media of the international arrogance on the discovery of Soviet-made mines, which were planted by the Iraqi regime in the Persian Gulf waters, as a studied and calculated propagandistic conspiracy against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The prime minister said that those mines were planted more than 2 years ago and affirmed that the goal of this conspiracy involves the difference on the issue of the security belt in the Persian Gulf, the justification for the presence of foreign forces in this region, and harming the Islamic Republic's economy with regard to oil exportation and the importation of products.

The prime minister said that through the distribution of those reports, the imperialist media are attempting to blame Iran for planting the mines, whereas the current regime in Iraq has already announced that it has planted mines in the Persian Gulf waters in order to hinder Iranian ships in these waters. He said that the regime repeated this a few days ago.

The prime minister affirmed that the Islamic Republic of Iran will never plant mines in the Persian Gulf. Also, because of its naval capabilities, it does not see any need to use such tactics. The prime minister warned against any measures that will harm security in the Persian Gulf waters and said if there is a decision to harm the security in the Persian Gulf, it will not only harm Iran, it will also affect all the other countries, and this means that we will not permit any ship to frequent the Persian Gulf waters.

Majlis Speaker's Comments After Council Session

GF261427 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Unidentified correspondent's interview with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 25 July — recorded]

[Excerpts][Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In tonight's session of the [Supreme Defense] Council, we spent some time hearing a report on the conditions of the fronts and the Wal Fajr-II operations, the effects of this operation and (?how to) continue it, military benefits to be gained from it in the area, and the statistics of the operation brought both by the Joint Staff and also the deputy Guards Corps commander. We reviewed all this.

We discussed other issues as well, such as the issue of information, its security, and the Ministry of Information bill that has recently been approved in the Majlis. We also reviewed the conditions of the Iraqi prisoners. A special case was raised concerning the espionage activities of an International Red Cross officer who was faced with the reaction of the prisoners themselves.

The statistics of the Wal Fajr operation were very interesting to us. What we can be certain of so far is that around 4,000 of the Iraqi personnel were destroyed during the operation. The majority of the bodies are still in the area at the moment. We ordered these to be cleared quickly. A large amount of (?military materiel) has been collected since over 40 bases, aside from the main Hajj 'Umran base, scattered in the area's hills [were captured]. There were materials, documents, and arms in all of these bases, which are being collected at the moment. We have also found documents there concerning the ties between the counterrevolution, the rebellious Kurds, and others who cooperated with Iraq.

Some documents deal with espionage or training and other issues with which they were involved as well as many other things that I will explain when you ask your other questions.

[Correspondent] Please tell us of the extent of importance of the role of the Kurdish peshmerga and the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries in these successful operations.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We did not evaluate the extent but they have told us that it was important. This is because they were more familiar with the region than us and their presence aided us in the operations. They were, of course, also very effective since they were entering their own soil, especially the Iraqis, and getting hopes of a better future. Our Muslim Kurds who operate and aid us within the Kordestan region also realized that this was one of the main bases creating an insecure situation in Kordestan and, therefore, in order to disrupt this den of inequity, they had many motives and naturally played an important role. I don't know the exact percentage of their effectiveness however.

[Correspondent] Considering the fact that the most important bases for feeding and (?directing) the counterrevolution have either been destroyed or captured by the brave fighters of our country, how do you preceive the future of the counterrevolution in this region?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This was not limited to the counterrevolutionary bases alone. This is a region situated in the northernmost region of Iraqi military presence. When we move south from that point there are still areas where the Iraqi Army is still on our soil or they are within Iraq together with the counterrevolution. They cross the borders in several areas, one of the important of these being this portion. This area is of prime importance because it leads to West Azarbayjan and also to Kordestan. The region itself — people don't know much about it; correspondents should go there and inform people about it — is a valley at the deepest point of which Hajj 'Umran base is located. The southern and northern parts of the valley include (Tamarchin) in the south and King Heights above it with many bases, I said around 40, located in the western, southern, eastern and northern areas of these very steep inclines. They put down their bases whereever they found suitable ground.

Another reason for the importance of this operation is because the area is very important. Among the documents we found in these bases —they had brought one — there is a report by an Iraqi officer to his superior stating the exact time and starting point of our operations. Considering this and their information, our forces still moved forward with much speed and destroyed their installations. We suffered very few losses and compared to the Iraqis, our losses were negligible. This shows the high morale of our forces and the weakness of the Iraqi forces who could not defend fortified mountain positions even with advance knowledge.

[Correspondent] My other question is this: Irrespective of the desperate efforts of the imperialist media to downplay the importance of this operation and the strategic importance of the liberated areas — they did confess to the importance of the issue and even though you have said something about its importance — and considering the fact that the Iraqi regime raised the matter 10 hours after the announcement of the attack by the Islamic Republic, how do you analyze this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This has two sides. One is the reaction of the world. So far as I have seen in the dispatches, the international news media have paid more attention this time. Why they have done this is something we will have to discover later. They have reported the news to some extent maybe because it is so clear. They know that we will take correspondents there soon to show them and thus it cannot be denied.

[Correspondent] As my last question [words indistinct]. What is the position of the Islamic Republic in this respect and what would be the role of France in stopping the (?progress) of the Islamic revolutionary movement?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This involves two issues: One is France and the other one is Iraq. The Iraqis have done everything they could possibly do so far. They have stopped at nothing. When they realized they had to retreat from such places as Qasr-e Shirin or Hoveyzeh, they completely destroyed the city [words indistinct]. It is not like they can so something, make a threat, and then not carry it out. With respect to our oil installations and other places they do anything they can. We, of course, are not defensively weak in the Persian Gulf and do not think the Iraqis have so much power to do anything important. The second assumption is that it is possible that France and others may give them some facilities when they see our determination, like they have done so far. For example, they may loan them very advanced aircraft or even use it themselves. Should such a situation occur, as we have announced before, we are the ones who are ensuring the security of the Persian Gulf — we do this because we need the Persian Gulf — but should a situation occur, and I don't believe that even France is capable of bringing this about, then we would no longer have a reason to keep the Persian Gulf secure. It is very easy for us to create an insecure Persian Gulf. We could arrange it so that not even one ship can enter the Persian Gulf or leave it. It is very easy for us. Should we do something like that, then what do you think the condition of the ports of the southern Gulf countries would be like? The countries whose entire being is dependent on this?

What do you think will happen to the whole world if no oil leaves the Persian Gulf for several months? If there is a drop of 8 to 10 million barrels of oil offered in the world each day, then the conditions would be like those immediately after the Islamic Revolution. The price of oil suddenly tripled then and there is no reason that the situation would be any better. It may be worse. I should say that such madness should not be the act of big powers of the world such as France or others. Iraq cannot do this and should such a condition ever arise, we have already announced our policy. The world is aware of it and cannot demand explanations later. If they want to be adventurous, we have showed them that we are ready to oppose such acts.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] God willing, may you be successful.

IRNA Report

LD261227 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 26 (IRNA) — "We are now preserving the Persian Gulf security, and without our efforts, it will not be safe, and Iran can disturb the security of the Persian Gulf any moment it wishes," said Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the representative of Imam Khomeyni in the Supreme Defence Council Monday night.

Speaking at the end of the session of the Supreme Defence Council, Rafsanjani referring to the recent Iraqi threats on destruction of Iran oil reserves and installations said that the Iraqi regime will not wince at anything it would be able to do, and that it will never stop short of anything it can do to damage Iran.

"Their savage nature is so great that they razed Qasr-e Shirin and Hoveyzeh (two Iranian towns) to the ground prior to their retreat from those areas," noted the speaker of the Supreme Defence Council. [as received]

He said Iranian defensive power in the Persian Gulf was superb and that it did not imagine Iraq to be able to do a considerable task.

He added that if France and others would provide Iraq with direct and indirect facilities such as advanced fighters, or even they themselves come and help Iraq, Iran will destroy the security of the Persian Gulf.

"Although improbable," added the speaker, "but if France were to do such a thing, Iran will make the Persian Gulf unsafe which was very very easy for it."

He went on to say that Iran could move in a way as to bar even one single ship from entry or exit in the Persian Gulf, hence the ports of the sheikdoms whose lives depend on the Persian Gulf, will have a deplorable fate.

He added that if for several months, oil was not to get out of the Persian Gulf, for instance the oil flow were to decrease for some 7 to 10 million barrels a day, the oil price will suddenly triple as it did in the times before the Islamic revolution.

Rafsanjani said he thought France and other powerful countries of the world would not do such a crazy thing, and that Iraq will not do that either.

He said Iran has therefore announced its policy beforehand so that the world cannot question its acts if it had to resort to such works in the future.

"If they want to be adventurous, we will show them that we are ready to face them," noted the speaker.

Speaking on the recent Iranian victorious operation, namely Wal Fajr 2, Rafsanjani said Iraqi casualties and other damages inflicted by Iran on Iraq, were great and interesting, and that the casualties of Iraq, nearly some 4,000 killed, are now lying on the ground at the operational theater, which have been ordered to be gathered and buried.

Referring to the documents obtained from the Iraqi regime in the recent operations from the Iraqi bases in the Hajj 'Umran area, he said that the documents attested to the counterrevolution and the recalcitrant Kurds dependence on the Iraqi regime, also gave information on the security and the intelligence data of the Iraqi regime.

When asked on the role of the Iraqi Muslim mujahedin and the Muslim Kurdish peshmerga in the recent operation, he said that it was too early to assess their role, but their acquaintance with the terrain was an effective help for Iran, and the Iraqi mujahedin had a new hope and inspiration because of entrance in their homeland, and our Muslim Kurdish brothers were happy of being able to play a part in the destruction of one of enemy's important bases effective in the insecurity of their Kordestan province. Rafsanjani said that the destruction of the Iraqi bases in the recent operation was a lethal blow to them which were feeding the counterrevolution, once thought by the Iraqis to be inconquerable indicating that Iraq does not have any power in the region, and further lacking a right assessment of the Iranian forces and the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic in this particular Kurdish residing region.

"According to the documents, the enemy knew of the Iranian attack but in the first hours of the Iranian operation, Iraq was forced to retreat and suffer heavy blows while Iran had the minimum casualties possible.

Speaking on the international mass media response to the Iranian operation, he said they partly covered the truth, since the Iranian victory was undeniable, seeing the Iraqi documents, and POWs.

He said they aimed maybe at introducing the danger arising from Saddam and bringing the world public opinion close to reality.

Speaking on the agenda last night in the session, Rafsanjani said they studied the case of one of International Red Cross representatives spying in one Iraqi POW camp in Iran, who was protested to by the POWs themselves.

In the meeting last night, which was chaired by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Prime Minister Musavi, Brigadier General Zahirnejad, Defence Minister Colonel Salimi, IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] Deputy Shamkhani, and War Information Headquarters Director Kamal Kharrazi, were present.

Envoy Views Gulf Security, French Arms to Iraq

LD262334 Tehran IRNA in English 2024 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Washington, July 26, IRNA — The Iranian permanent representative to the U.N. Seyyed Rajaie-Khorassani Monday dispelled Iraq's threats to prevent Iran's oil exports in the Persian Gulf. He said that the Islamic republic has so far maintained security in the Persian Gulf and will continue to do so. "Therefore", said Rajaie-Khorassani, "we will strongly oppose

any measures aimed at endangering the security of the Persian Gulf."

Speaking in a press conference at the United Nations, the Iranian envoy also criticised the French Government for its continuing aids to the Iraqi regime. The French Government, he said, has no respect for international regulations and with regards to the great French investments in Iraq, the French Government wants to preserve the security of these investments by supporting the Iraqi regime. The two regimes (France and Iraq) are Zionist inspired and hence their ideologies tie together the continuation of these cooperations.

Talking about the loan of Super-Etenard planes and the sale of Exocet missiles by France, he said that the French Government should know that this action was tantamount to direct participation of French forces in the Iraq-Iran war, because from now on, it is not the Iraqi airplanes which attack Iran but French aircraft also share in these attacks.

Replying to another question that whether Iran would accept the report of the U.N. delegation dispatched to Iran and Iraq, the Iranian envoy said, we do not officially recognise the Security Council but just cooperated with the U.N. about the dispatch of a delegation to estimate the damages inflicted upon the civilian regions of Iran merely due to friendly and respectful relations with the Chinese and Zimbabwe representatives who head the Security Council. The report was at the disposal of the Security Council and had been prepared by the U.N. and their view could not contradict that of the dispatched delegation.

In conclusion, Rajaie-Khorassani mentioned that if the Security Council issued a suitable statement and accepted the realities through taking the proper and courageous stand, "we are ready to revise our stand towards the Security Council."

Forces Continue Mopping Up in Wal Fajr Area

LD261707 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Following the complete deployment of our brothers on all the important heights in the liberated mountainous regions in the Wal Fajr-II operational sector and their conquest and occupation of Hajj 'Umran Garrison and the hamlets right along the Piranshah-Darband highway last night and this morning, in completing mopping up operations in a few enemy-infested areas southwest of the region and to the extreme west of the Wal Fajr-II operational sector, another nine enemy and counterrevolutionary bases, three of which are of special strategic importance, were liberated by the Islamic combatants. Another group of enemy forces and counterrevolutionaries were either killed or wounded. Thus, with the fall of the latest outposts, the number of enemy outposts liberated inside Iraqi territory exceeds 50.

During these mopping up operations, an appreciable amount of equipment, including five artillery pieces, more than one truckload of grenades and two truckloads of small arms, together with eight military vehicles of the Saddamists were captured as booty by the Islamic combatants.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,394

LD261753 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Communique No 1,394 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Following the valuable successes achieved during the Wal Fajr-II operations, Islam's glorious forces at present are strongly deployed while enjoying complete superiority in the liberated regions. In their new defensive positions, they are depriving the mercenaries of the Iraqi Zionist Ba'thist regime of any freedom of maneuver.

On other western fronts, there are exchanges of fire and Islam's fighting combatants are striving with firm resolve toward the destruction of the enemy. Yesterday exchanges of fire in the Baneh and Marivan regions were of greater intensity. Our forces' fire on enemy positions in Tutman and Hargineh caused losses and casualties among the Saddamists. In the Mehran region, the Islamic combatant units observed a number of enemy patrol troops close to our own forces' defensive lines and with their fire they forced them to flee.

On the southern fronts, there were exchanges of heavy weapons fire yesterday, and our forces opened fire on enemy tank, mortar, and artillery positions. In the (Shalamcheh), Kushk, and (Pich Angizeh) areas, there were intense exchanges of fire. Yesterday in the Shahani region, one enemy patrol group tried to infiltrate our forces' positions, but our combatants' timely fire forced the enemy troops to flee after suffering casualties.

During the exchanges of fire in the Abadan and KLorramshahr operational sector, seven enemy trenches, foxholes, and observation posts on the opposite bank of the Arvand Rud were destroyed and several Saddamists were killed by the Islamic forces' fire.

Yesterday an enemy mortar damaged four houses in Abadan.

[Signed] Joint staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Iraqi Counteroffensive 'Crushed' 25 July

LD262052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that at approximately 2030 last night a Ba'thist-Zionist enemy counteroffensive was crushed and the defeated army of Saddam, which was trying to make up for its disgraceful defeats in the Wal Fajr-II operational sector, was forced to retreat and flee without achieving anything.

Muslim Iraqis Can Volunteer for Warfronts

LD261117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] The central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and military units of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq in a joint communique announced:

Following the successful Wal Fajr-II operations, in which Muslim Iraqi combatants and the courageous forces of the army of Islam were present, and because of the repeated requests by the heroic Muslim people of Iraq who reside in Iran, military units throughout Iran of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq are enrolling Iraqi Muslim volunteers — who would like to be present at the fronts of the war by right against wrong in order to fight against the Ba'thist Zionist Regime of Saddam and liberate the holy land of Iraq — to send them to the warfronts. Volunteers can refer to the military centers of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq in Tehran and other cities, for 1 week, beginning today.

Iraqi Supreme Assembly Statement on Wal Fajr-II

LD262054 Tehran IRNA in English 1917 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA — In a statement Monday to mark the victorious Wal Fajr-2 operations, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) said that the operations, aimed at purging Iran's Kurdestan from the remnants of counter-revolutionaries, launched at a time when Iraqi regime was sending, before firing squads, a great number of ulema and Mujahidin everyday and several other thousands to dreadful prison cells.

Under these circumstances, imperialist countries and their lackey agents in the region with their everyday prescriptions were attempting to add one more day to the ailing life of the Baghdad regime, the statement said.

Describing the Baghdad regime as one of the bases of international imperialism which had no objective other than pleasing its Western and Eastern masters, the statement noted that the only way of salvation of the people of Iraq and other states in the region was the downfall of Saddam's subservient regime and the establishment of an Islamic rule there.

The statement called on the Iraqi Armed Forces to join the Islamic combatants, to increase their blows on the Iraqi regime from inside the country, and to disconnect ways enabling Ba'thist forces to continue their aggressions against the Islamic forces.

Volunteers Depart for Warfronts 25 July

GF261534 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1400 GMT 25 Jul 83

[Summary from poor reception] The (?Jondollah) Battallion of the armored center in Shiraz left for the fronts of right against wrong today following a ceremony. According to a report by the Central News Unit, the Jondollah Battalion of the ground force training center also left Shiraz this morning for the fronts of light against darkness. The personnel of the battalion have all volunteered to go to the fronts of Islam's battle against international heathenism. Hundreds of sacrificing brothers also left Shiraz from Saheb Az-Zaman headquarters, the dispatch headquarters for District 9 Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. They were all volunteers from the cities, towns, and villages of Fars, Bushehr, and Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad Provinces.

A group of mobilization personnel of Qir Va Karzin left this morning for the fronts of battle of Islam against international infidelity. A group of mobilization brothers also left Mamasani for the fronts accompanied by a group of heavy vehicle drivers as a support unit. Selfsacrificers of the mobilization department of Kavar Islamic Revolution Guards Corps left the citythis morning for the fronts.

Following the start of the Wal Fajr-II operations and the victories of the army of the lord of the ages, a group of Yasuj Red Crescent medics left for the fronts this morning.

Iraqi Prisoners Taken to Urumiyeh, 'Paraded'

LD261314 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Excerpts] According to a report by the Central News Unit, a group of Iraqi Zionist army personnel, having been captured during the Wal Fajr-II operations by the mighty Islamic combatants were transferred behind the lines yesterday. The prisoners, including several Iraqi officers, were taken through Piranshahr in 11 minibuses, while the local inhabitants lined the streets of the town.

On the basis of the same report, the Iraqi POW's were then taken to Urumiyeh where they were paraded in front of the people, who have never spared anything during the Wal Fajr-II offensive.

Chief State Prosecutor Holds Press Conference

GF261140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Yusef Sane'i, chief state prosecutor, last night held a press, radio, and television conference attended by local and foreign correspondents. He answered questions on various topics.

The chief state prosecutor, in discussing the campaign against hoarding and profiteering, praised the activities of the prime minister in this field and called for the public's cooperation in this matter. He added that hoarding and profiteering will not divert us from the war. The nation is willing to sacrifice its sons and loved ones for the cause of the revolution, and it is prepared to withstand all pressures. But to prevent cruelty and toenjoy God's gifts, it is necessary to utilize the judiciary system, to pass judgment on violators in accordance with Islamic law, and tomete out fixed sentences.

Mr Sane'i added that whenever something is said about punishing those found guilty of hoarding, those engaged in this activity begin to criticize the government. Those found guilty of engaging in hoarding must be punished according to our penal code. No case against a hoarder has been prosecuted. But since we consider hoarding and profiteering to be a form of war, of economic war, so the punishment must be severe. But we should remember that Islam is a religion of mercy and forgiveness.

Mr Sane'i, while pointing out the limit of authority given to the minister of justice, described his duties.

The state general prosecutor, in another part of his press conference, said that in the Islamic Republic the judiciary is an independent system. Islam provides that judges be independent and responsible people.

Mr Sane'i answering a question about why the trial of the treacherous leaders of Tudeh Party has not begun, said that their trial is under the authority of the Islamic courts and the reason for the delay is that some individuals who were involved in the Tudeh Party have yet to come forward. When they do so and the investigation is completed, the courts will resume their work and the trial will begin.

The chief state prosecutor said in regard to the obstruction by the Saudi Government against Iranian Muslims who wish to make the hajj: The Saudi Government wants to prevent the names of tyrants from being exposed during the hajj as well as the names of plunders of Muslims' wealth. What actually are the Iranians doing? The Iranian Muslims, while performing the hajj, are performing all the duties prescribed in the Koran. But to protect U.S. interests, they want to prevent Iranian Muslims from making the hajj. As Saudi officials recite the Koran, how can they prevent anyone from making a pilgrimage to the lord's house? If this is allowed to happen, it will be an abomination. If Muslims remain silent and let this occur, one day Saudi Arabia will prevent all Muslims from making the hajj and turn it into a pleasure palace for tyrants. Then Mecca would have fallen into the hands of the Zionist aggressors. But they will not succeed because the voice of outrage, of the oppressed will spread to all corners of the world, and it will be like our voice, one of revolution.

The chief state prosecutor, in discussing the responsibilities of Islamic scholars, said that they should promote Islamic unity and frustrate the plots to divide Shi'ites and Sunnis. He said that friendship is the most sincere form of worship. All Muslims are brothers. The imam of the nation has continuously stressed this, and the formation of Friday imams congress and the Council of Experts are manifestations of this belief. All plots of world arrogance will be frustrated.

The chief state prosecutor said that those wishing to purchase dwelling must respect the views of the current tenants and owners. Ownership rights must not be violated.

Mr Sane'i concluded by explaining the responsibilities and activities of the Supreme Judiciary Council, the Supreme Court, and the Islamic courts.

Khomeyni Receives Hashemi-Rafsanjani 26 July

LD261315 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani was received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the course of the meeting, the speaker handed a report to the leader of the revolution.